Atomic Power Plant at Jabalpur or Shivpuri in M.P.

†4134. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had agreed in principle to consider for setting up of atomic power plant with production capacity of 2000 megawatt in Jabalpur or Shivpuri in Madhya Pradesh in the year 1984 ;

(b) if so, which places were found suitable at the initial stage for setting up of these plants;

(c) whether any final decision has been taken by the Selection Committee of the Ministry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (c) Rajapur in Shivpuri district and Bargi (near Chutka) in Mandla district, both sites in Madhya Pradesh, had been considered by the Site Selection Committee constituted by the Department of Atomic Energy in the 1980s. In the context of the on-going process of re-evaluation of sites in Madhya Pradesh, a nodal agency has been nominated by the Government of Madhya Pradesh for the collection and updating of site data. Setting up of a nuclear power plant in any region will, however, depend upon the energy alternatives available to a region, availability of funds to set up the plant, techno-economic considerations and availability of suitable sites.

Nuclear Plant at Drolli in Punjab

4135. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware about the proposed N-plant at Drolli in Punjab ;

(b) whether the NPC and the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board visited the site and approved it;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, whether the project has been dropped ; and

(d) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to allocate another Atomic Energy N-plant to Punjab at all ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) In the context of the ongoing process of evaluation of various sites in the Northern Electricity Region by the Site Selection Committee constituted by the Department of Atomic Energy, a nodal agency has been nominated by the Government of Punjab for the collection and updating of site data at Drolli village near Patran in Samana tehsil of Patiala district in Punjab.

(b) Some members of the Site Selection Committee and its working group have visited the site. After the work of the Site Selection Committee is completed, the sites will also require clearances from the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board and from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal as of now. It is premature at this stage to indicate a final decision in this regard, until site investigations are completed and a decision is taken for setting up a project.

Privatisation of nuclear power sector

4136. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plan to privatise the Nuclear Power Sector by inviting Private Sector to set up four Nuclear Power Plants;

(b) whether the power plants to be privatised are 2x220 MW at Kaiga Nuclear Power Stations in Karnataka and 2x220 MW in Punjab; and

(c) if so, what are the details of this plan and the safety precautions that will be taken to prevent accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) The Government of India are open to specific offers for participation by private firms, Indian or foreign, in the nuclear power sector. However, the Government have not received any concrete proposals from the private sector so far to set up nuclear power plants in the country. Such